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CANADA



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GEOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE

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Canada is the second largest country in the world. Stretching 5,780 miles (9,284 kilometers) from east to west, it covers an area of 3.8 million square miles (9.7 million square kilometers) in which lives a population approaching the 22 million mark; only the Soviet Union is bigger. Canada, comprising 10 provinces and two territories, exceeds the area of the United States by more than 200,000 square miles (512,000 square kilometers). To cross it by train takes four days and four nights; to fly from Montreal to Vancouver, on Canada's west coast, takes as long as to fly from Montreal to Paris.

Nearly half of Canada is covered by both forests and the Canadian Shield, a 1.8 million square mile (4.6 million square kilometers) area of ancient rock, mainly in the north, which contains immense mineral wealth. Mostly a region of hills, lakes and muskeg or swamp, the Shield is sparsely populated. By comparison, almost 70 per cent of Canadians live in urban areas concentrated within 100 miles of the United States border. The fresh water which forms more than 7.6 per cent of the total area of Canada represents about a quarter of the world supply.

REGIONS

Canada is divided into five basic regions: the Atlantic provinces, Quebec and Ontario, the Prairies, the Pacific Coast, and the North.

ATLANTIC

The four Atlantic provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland all have extensive sea coastlines and the inhabitants owe much of their livelihood to the sea. The first recorded landing in Canada was made in

Newfoundland in 1497 by John Cabot, an Italian-born explorer in the service of England. The Vikings, sailing from Iceland, are believed to have reached the coast of the Atlantic provinces several centuries earlier. In Labrador, which is part of the province of Newfoundland though it lies on the Canadian mainland, the world's largest underground power station is being built to harness Churchill Falls. When completed, this hydro-electric development will generate 5.25 million kilowatts. Fishing, farming — including fruit growing — coal-mining, pulp and paper, and manufacturing are the predominant industries of the four provinces.

QUEBEC AND ONTARIO

The central provinces of Ontario and Quebec contain more than half of Canada's population. The industrial growth of both provinces has been favoured by the St. Lawrence River and the Great Lakes which constitute one of the world's great waterways, and carry deep-sea shipping more than 2,280 miles (3,648 kilometers) from the Atlantic Ocean into the heart of the continent.

Quebec is one of the most important industrial provinces and mining is its most important primary industry. Hydro-electric power ranks second as a primary resource. Quebec's forests provide 38 per cent of Canada's pulp and 43 per cent of its paper production. Ontario is the foremost industrial province of Canada but also produces about a quarter of Canada's net income from farming. Mining is of great importance: most of Canada's nickel and platinum, and much of its gold, copper, cobalt and salt are mined in Ontario. Niagara Falls, one of the largest waterfalls in the world, is the chief source of hydro-electric power in the province.

PRAIRIES

The three prairie provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba are covered with rich black earth upon which much of the world's grain is grown; however, each year industry assumes greater importance in the economies of the three provinces. Saskatchewan has a large potash industry and Alberta's oil fields produce 63 per cent of Canada's oil and 85 per cent of its natural gas. Manitoba is an important producer of copper, nickel and zinc.

PACIFIC

More than 73 per cent of the westerly province of British Columbia is forested, and it is the country's largest producer of lumber. Most of the province is covered by mountain ranges which run from south to north. In the south of the province are a number of interior valleys which contain some of the finest fruit-growing districts in North America. British Columbia is rich in hydro-electric power, using only one-tenth of its potential of 30 million horsepower. In metal production, the

province ranks fourth among the other provinces with important deposits of zinc, lead, copper, silver and gold. Another important resource is fish, particularly the Pacific salmon.

NORTH

Northern Canada is the last remaining frontier. Through its vast mineral resources, it holds the key to Canada's future. Northern Canada is made up of the Northwest Territories, whose surface of 1.3 million square miles (3.3 million square kilometers) covers more than a third of Canada including the Arctic archipelago, and the Yukon Territory.

Year-round oil exploration is under way in the Canadian Arctic and has already resulted in significant finds. Studies are being made to find economic methods of transporting the oil south. An estimated one-third of Canada's fresh-water supply is in the north, much of it in rivers flowing into the Arctic Ocean. The combined population of the Northwest Territories and the Yukon Territory is 46,000.

CLIMATE

Canada's climate is characterized by marked changes of weather with the changes of season. The seasons run as follows: Spring — mid-March to mid-May; Summer — mid-May to mid-September; Autumn — mid-September to mid-November; and Winter — mid-November to mid-March.

Summer in Canada is usually very warm and frequently humid. Swimming, sailing and all types of outdoor activities are enjoyed by many Canadians. In all but British Columbia, winter is cold and snowy but often marked by long hours of sunshine. Coastal British Columbia's weather is

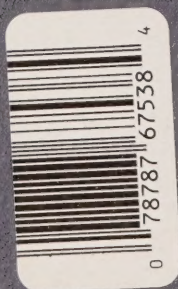
tempered by warm Pacific air; winter temperatures there are similar to those in the United Kingdom.

Newcomers to Canada soon learn to cope with winter, which for many — particularly those who enjoy winter sports — is one of the most enjoyable seasons. Homes, offices and factories are centrally heated in winter, as is all public transport. Most city streets and country roads are open to traffic within a few hours after a major snowfall. A new development in some urban areas is the construction of vast, heated indoor shopping centres where customers may shop in comfort during the coldest weather.

TIME-ZONES

Canada's size accounts for seven different time-zones. When people in the Yukon Territory sit down to have lunch, people in Newfoundland are getting ready for dinner. If it is 12:00 noon (1200) in Whitehorse, it is 1 p.m. (1300) in Vancouver;

2 p.m. (1400) in Calgary; 3 p.m. (1500) in Regina and Winnipeg; 4 p.m. (1600) in Toronto and Montreal; 5 p.m. (1700) in Halifax and 5:30 p.m. (1730) in Newfoundland.



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